

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A tampon, in particular for feminine hygiene, comprising a tampon body and a withdrawal tape which is fastened on the tampon body and is configured such that the withdrawal tape has an effective length that can be changed before or during use, the withdrawal tape has a first end connected to the tampon body and a second end having a knot, a loop and a free end extending from the knot wherein said loop reduces the effective length of the withdrawal tape and can be released by pulling the free end in order to increase the effective length of the withdrawal tape.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 1, wherein the loop is formed such that it does not release by virtue of the loop being pulled.
5. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 1, wherein the loop is formed in the manner of a half-loop.
6. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 1, wherein the loop is formed in the manner of a second knot.
7. (Previously Presented) A tampon, in particular for feminine hygiene, comprising a tampon body and a withdrawal tape which is fastened on the tampon body-and is configured such that the withdrawal tape has an effective length that can be changed before or during use, wherein the withdrawal tape is formed with at least one fold that reduces the effective length of the withdrawal tape and can be released in order to increase the effective length of the withdrawal tape and the withdrawal tape is arranged at least partly within the tampon

body and is positioned with the at least one fold therein, and the portion of the withdrawal tape having the at least one fold is retained between adjacent portions of the tampon body.

8. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 7, wherein the tampon body is rolled and pressed to retain the portion of the withdrawal tape having the at least one fold.

9. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 7 wherein the at least one fold of said withdrawal tape arranged at least partly within the tampon body is releasable by pulling the free end of the withdrawal tape in order to increase the effective length of the withdrawal tape outside the tampon.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a tampon comprising a tampon body and a withdrawal tape, said method comprising the steps of: positioning the withdrawal tape around a ~~fibrous fabric~~ tampon ~~web band~~ such that the withdrawal tape extends transversely to and laterally beyond the ~~fibrous fabric~~ tampon ~~web band~~; rolling and pressing the ~~fibrous fabric~~ tampon ~~web band~~ to form the tampon body with the withdrawal tape fastened therein; and knotting the withdrawal tape outside the tampon body to form a releasable loop.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a tampon comprising the steps of: positioning the withdrawal tape around a ~~fibrous fabric~~ tampon ~~web band~~ such that the withdrawal tape extends transversely to the ~~fibrous fabric~~ tampon ~~web band~~ and a portion of the withdrawal tape extends laterally beyond the ~~fibrous fabric~~ tampon ~~web band~~; and folding the portion of the withdrawal tape that extends beyond the ~~fibrous fabric~~ tampon ~~web band~~ partly onto the ~~fibrous fabric~~ tampon ~~web band~~; rolling and pressing the ~~fibrous fabric~~ tampon ~~web band~~ to form a tampon body with the withdrawal tape fastened therein and to retain the folded portion of the withdrawal tape in the tampon.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the withdrawal tape is folded onto the ~~fibrous fabric~~ tampon ~~web band~~ in a direction selected from the group